

5 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 5 January 1962

PRESENT: General Taylor; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Gilpatrick and  
General Lemnitzer; and Mr. McCone

Mr. Bissell (Items 1 and 3)

[Redacted Box] (Items 1 and 2)

Mr. Hilman (Items 1 and 2)

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1. Baltic Reconnaissance Mission

Colonel Steakley outlined details of mission CLYDE, scheduled to go into the Baltic during the period 8 to 11 January. He emphasized that this varies from other approved Baltic missions in that no flight plan will be filed; the distance off Soviet territory will be 30 nautical miles rather than the customary 50 (the established limit being 20); and the aircraft will traverse the target area at an altitude of 1,000 feet.

The Group approved the mission as presented.

2. United Nations Resolution on Satellites

The Group discussed the resolution on satellites, approved by the United Nations in December. It was noted that the resolution itself does not require the revelation of sensitive information, but that the State Department has prepared certain ground rules covering the information that should be submitted. This is primarily an attempt to forestall the UN Secretariat's producing a requirement which would be much more stringent.

The consensus of the Group was that the purpose of satellites should not be given to the UN, and that the best way to comply with the resolution would be simply to follow the letter of it, i.e., only to register each piece of hardware put into space. Mr. Johnson undertook to discuss this position further in the State Department and to talk to Ambassador Stevenson within the limits of appropriate security clearances. It was agreed that this would be taken up again at next week's Group meeting.

NSC review(s) completed.

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3. Laos

[Redacted content]

4. Organizing to Direct Counter-Insurgency

The Group then discussed this problem, with particular reference to General Taylor's memorandum of 2 January.

The members of the Group agreed in general that there is a gap in existing governmental machinery to cope with problems such as insurgency. On the other hand, none of them appeared to feel that the current draft met the many questions that arose in their minds as to exactly what such a group, if constituted, would do.

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It was agreed that a committee of assistants to the members should be convened to work on the paper at further length and to try to clarify such phraseology as "monitor" and "coordinate." It was agreed that General Taylor would meet briefly with this committee at an appropriate time.

It was also agreed that whatever kind of committee is eventually set up, General Lemnitzer should be a member and probably [redacted]

5. Proposed Covert Economic Action in Developing Nations

This paper was put over in view of the hour, and also because Mr. McGone expressed some basic reservations on the principle of [redacted] which might lead simply to government take-overs.

6. Minutes

Last week's minutes were approved. In answer to the Chairman's query, the members expressed general satisfaction at the degree of detail contained in the minutes week by week.

Thomas A. Parrott